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BULLETIN

OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARIES

No. 11. February, 1960

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Mrs. J.M.Leonard,
Selly Oak Colleges Library,
Birmingham, 29.

Rev. R.Thomas,
Dr. Williams's Library,
14, Gordon Square,
London, W.C.1.

Editorial notes

It was to be expected that Miss Ferrier's resignation from the post of Hon. Secretary/Treasurer would affect the work of the Association, at least until a successor had been appointed and installed. The new Hon. Secretary/Treasurer is Miss I.L.Feltwell, of the National Central Library, Malet Place, London, W.C.1, and correspondence should be sent to her in future, except that relating to editorial matters, which should continue to be sent to me.

By the time the change-over had been completed it was too late to hold the usual election, and the Committee proceeded to nominate its successors for 1960; the composition of the new Committee is set out opposite.

Members will be pleased to learn that Dr. Lamb's papers on Scottish libraries, which appeared in this Bulletin during 1958, have now been published in the December 1959 issue of the Library Association record.

I am now anxious to learn of someone who is able and willing to undertake a comparable survey of libraries in the Cambridge area; a paper on libraries in the Oxford area is already in preparation and will, I hope, be available before the end of the year, but all my efforts to find a would-be author for an account of the Cambridge scene have failed. I should appreciate suggestions - I cannot believe that there really is nobody competent to do what is wanted - he or she does not have to be a member of the Association.

Once again some leaflets are being distributed for the information of members; judging by comments this policy is generally approved and will be continued whenever suitable material is available.

R. J. Hoy.

Walford (A.J.) Guide to reference material. Edited by A.J. Walford with the assistance of L.M.Payne. London, Library Association, 1959. £4 (£3 to members of the L.A.)

The aim of this guide is stated as "...to provide a guide to reference books and bibliographies, with emphasis on current material and on material published in Britain. This guide is intended for librarians, in the building up and revision of reference library stock; for use in general and special library work..." The contents are tabulated as falling into 2 main groups - Reference books proper and Bibliographies. Under the former heading are listed Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries of terms, Language dictionaries, Scientific and technical manuals, Technical data books, Statistical data books, Year books and directories, Histories, Biographical dictionaries, and Atlases. Under the latter heading appear Bibliographies, general and special, author and subject; Guides to the literature, Catalogues of libraries, Reviews of progress, Lists of periodicals, Indexes, and Abstracting journals.

In spite of the existence of Winchell, it was thought that there is a place for a comparable work with the emphasis on British publications, and no doubt rightly so. There are main entries for some 3000 items, each having an annotation, some of which are quite lengthy. In addition there are references to, or notes about, other relevant publications.

It is necessary to read the introduction in order to be clear about some omissions. E.g., in the field of history much of the older material is out of print, and so has not been included, but references are made to appropriate entries in Minto, Mudge, Winchell, etc. Maps, anthologies, and most sourc books have been omitted, as well as most journals. Obviously, without such a policy of selection it would have been impossible to produce such a single-volume work.

Of the subjects of greatest interest to ABTAPL, Philosophy and Psychology were dealt with by B.S.Page, Librarian of the University of Leeds; the Christian religion by Miss I.R.Elliott, of Dr. Williams's Library, and Miss E.Broughton, of the Catholic Central Library; Non-Christian religions were dealt with by Mrs. A.A.G.Bennett.

There can be no doubt that this publication will fill a long-felt want, and it can hardly fail to serve its purpose for the kinds of library for which it is intended. It is hoped to maintain continuity by the periodical issue of supplements, followed by a new edition after 5 or 6 years. It is a handsomel produced book, which deserves every success.

THE AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The American Theological Library Association was organized in 1947. Its purpose as defined in its Constitution is "to bring its members into closer working relations with each other and with the American Association of Theological Schools, to study the distinctive problems of the theological library, and to promote library service and librarianship among the institutions of AATS and theological education in general". From its inception the association has sought to advance the standards of library service in theological libraries and to promote the continued professional and scholarly growth of those engaged in work in these libraries.

Influences at work for some years led to the formation of the ATLA. Since 1916 the American Library Association has maintained a Religious Books Round Table, through which a number of theological librarians (as well as others) were brought together occasionally for profitable sessions. A second influence was the formation in 1938 of the American Association of Theological Schools, as a reorganization of the Conference of Theological Seminaries and Colleges which had been formed in 1918. The AATS early showed an interest in strengthening libraries, and eight years later took the initiative in convening the first conference of what was to become the ATLA. An indirect but important influence was the increased emphasis by colleges and universities on their libraries, with growing recognition of the educational function of the library. This realization undergirded the movement to establish a vigorous association of theological librarians.

To the first conference of the ATLA, convened in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1947, came fifty librarians, one seminary president, and one dean. With the structure as organized at this time the association has met annually ever since. Its conferences have been held in widely separated cities of the American continent, including Boston, Fort Worth, San Francisco, and Toronto (in 1959), as well as in the central part of the country.

Since its beginning ATLA has maintained its close tie with AATS. ATLA has arranged its annual meetings so as to coincide with the biennial sessions of AATS as to time and place, and occasional joint sessions of the two bodies have been devoted to matters of mutual concern. Liaison between AATS and ATLA has been maintained through an AATS representative on the Executive Committee of ATLA. ATLA is also affiliated with the American Library Association and with the International Association of Theological Libraries.

Membership in ATLA may be institutional or personal. In the latter category are (1) full members, who are professional librarians serving institutions which are members of AATS; and (2) associate members, who are persons interested in or associated with the work of theological librarianship. As of December 1,

1958, there were 111 institutional members. 146 full members, and 71 associate members of ATLA. The association has the usual officers, who with four additional persons compose the Executive Committee. Many of the activities of ATLA are carried on through committees, which have been responsible for substantial achievements in certain areas of theological librarianship.

In 1952 AATS adopted certain library standards as recommended by a study committee on which ATLA was represented. A revised statement of standards was adopted in 1958. Application of library standards by the accrediting commission of AATS has served to raise markedly the level of libraries in theological schools across the United States and Canada. The standards adopted in 1958 called for a minimum expenditure of $12,500 per year ("in terms of 1958 dollars"), exclusive of janitorial service and maintenance, in a library that supports B. D. and Master's programs of study. Of this sum not less than $3,200 should be spent for books and periodicals, apart from binding. Aids to a Theological School Library, a publication of AATS prepared by a committee from ATLA, provides a recommended basic collection of reference books and periodicals, and a checklist for self-study of an institutional library.

Two committees of ATLA have now been made permanent executive boards. The Periodicals Index Committee guided the cooperative production of an index to thirty religious periodicals, covering the years 1949 through 1954 (v.1, 1949-52; v.2, 1953-54). So useful did this index prove that the project was made a self-sustaining operation with a $30,000 grant from the Sealantic Foundation. The Periodical Indexing Board has published its first volume covering 1957, enlarging its scope to include more than fifty journals in the broad field of religion. Annual volumes with a triennial permanent cumulation are projected.

Since 1950 a Microphotography Committee has sought to explore workable methods of obtaining scarce or unavailable materials through microtext. The committee sponsored publication on microcards of eighteen dissertations in religion, and disseminated news of microtext publications in the field of religion. Permanent support for this enterprise was assured through a Sealantic Foundation grant of $80,000, administered by the Microtext Board. The board has established plans and policies, reviewing the needs of theological libraries that can be met by use of microtext. More than a half million pages - the substances of fifteen serial titles - are in process of microfilming at present. The subsidy makes possible a non-profit arrangement through which only the original investment will be recovered; hence a considerable saving to library purchasers will be effected. The board at present is concentrating in periodical files, especially those titles needed by newer and developing libraries. Future plans include micro-reproduction of materials

difficult or expensive to obtain; deteriorating materials with information important enough to be conserved; and materials bulky and expensive to house with conventional library equipment.

The Periodicals Exchange Committee has developed and supervises a simple but effective arrangement for exchanging duplicate periodicals. Certain libraries serve as clearing houses for stipulated titles, receiving lists of duplicates and/or needs, and instructing those with duplicates where they should be sent. At cost only of transportation many libraries have received substantial additions to their serial collections, and other libraries have reclaimed shelf space heretofore allotted to duplicate periodicals.

The Personnel and Placement Committee provides a clearing house for information concerning positions and available persons in the theological library field. It has studied such matters as recruitment, education for theological librarianship, and in-service training. A grant of $9,000 from the Lilly Foundation provides fellowships to improve the educational qualifications and status of librarians associated with ATLA. The grant for 1958-1959 is subject to possible renewal in future years.

The Building and Equipment Committee has assembled at each annual conference a display of recent construction in theological libraries and many types of equipment for library use. Members of this committee also serve as counselors in planning for library construction or remodeling.

Through its committee ATLA has published a substantial listing of Masters' theses in religion, and has encouraged publishers to reprint works of enduring worth that had been out of print. ATLA has also encouraged publication of fine bibliographies, such as the 1900-1950 catalog of Dr. Williams's Library in London; and the continuation and revision of standard bibliographies in religion.

A Cataloging and Classification Committee has arranged annual round table discussions of problems in these technical areas, thus enabling many librarians and staff members to share the knowledge and experience of experts in this work.

Annual conference programs have included as a regular feature a bibliographical paper dealing with such subjects as American church history, missions, doctrine, biblical theology, denominations (Baptist, Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Plymouth Brethren, Lutheran), and persons (John Calvin). These papers appear in full as one of the valued contributions in the published proceedings of ATLA, and have often been published subsequently elsewhere. The Proceedings of each conference are published in an annual volume. Extensive exhibits of religious books are displayed at each conference.

Through its committees or in program presentations ATLA has confronted such problems as administration, acquisitions, binding, audio-visual aids, mail extension service, library orientation of students, and reference service.

An important instrument keeping ATLA members informed during the interim between annual conferences is the Newsletter, published three times a year. Committee activities, plans, and concerns are reported, along with library news both personal and institutional, notes on books and periodicals, area denominational library meetings, positions open and wanted, and notable acquisitions. Recent issues have included supplementary papers on such subjects as cooperative acquisitions, classification, and Roman Catholic periodicals of theological interest.

Perhaps the most meaningful contribution of ATLA to theological librarianship is its provision of opportunity and incentive for American theological librarians to gather periodically, thus to be enabled to form valuable personal and professional relationships which are the basis of the unity and cohesiveness of ATLA and which lie behind much of the progress achieved to date. Vigorous participation by a large number of its members has made possible the considerable achievements of ATLA in its first twelve years, and gives promise for its future.

The Executive Secretary of ATLA is Mr. Frederick L. Chenery, Librarian, Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, 606 Rathervue Place, Austin 5, Texas.

Connolly Gamble, Jr.
Director of Continuing Education
Union Theological Seminary

3401 Brook Road,
Richmond 27, Virginia

PEARSON (J.D.) comp. Index Islamicus, 1906-1955. A catalogue of articles on Islamic subjects in periodicals and other collective publications. Heffer; Cambridge, 1958. The whole work occupies xxxvi plus 897 pp. Section II. Religion. Theology, occupies pp. 41-100 and contains 2051 entries; it is divided into - (a) Religion (general); (b) Dogma, Ritual, Religious observance; (c) Asceticism, Mysticism, Sects and heresies; (d) Theology. Other Sections contain relevant material.

Abstracta Islamica. Pub. as a part of Revue des Études Islamiques, and subsequently issued separately. Sections I-III are the most closely related to the interests of ABTAPL, but the remaining Sections IV-XIII all contain relevant material.

SELLY OAK COLLEGES LIBRARY, BIRMINGHAM

The Selly Oak Colleges Library serves the day to day needs of the students of the associated colleges of Selly Oak. It aims also at providing facilities for advanced work in missionary and oriental studies. In addition to well-balanced collections in sociology and theology, it possesses more than 3,000 volumes in Arabic and Syriac.

The first central library was begun in 1925. It moved to a building specially erected to house it in 1932. This building, like much else in the Library, was the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Cadbury. It provides a main reading room, a stack capable of holding 20,000 volumes, rooms for the oriental collections, strong rooms and administrative rooms. There is accommodation for forty readers and shelving for about 60,000 books, most of which are immediately available to readers on an open access system. The Library is classified on a modified form of the Dewey system, and is provided with an author and a classified catalogue on cards.

Only the subjects studied at the Colleges are represented in the main book stock. There is a small but modern selection of those works on psychology which are of value to the student of education and the social sciences. The philosophy section consisted originally of a selection of standard works, but was strongly reinforced in 1939 by the gift of the library of Professor Jonas Cohn, consisting of some 3,000 volumes, and is now strong in German philosophers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Books on theology and church history take up a large part of the library, and form a good working collection. They consist for the most part of modern English authors, with a selection of the more important European writers, and are supported by good files of periodicals, both English and foreign. The Rendel Harris collection includes a number of important works on textual criticism. Economics, economic history and social work are all well represented in a good working collection; special attention is given to religious education, adult education and education in non-European countries. In other subjects, no attempt is made to build up balanced collections; the Library tries to include the essential works which may be needed for reference, and little more.

A high proportion of the students at the Selly Oak Colleges are either candidates preparing for Christian work overseas, or missionaries on furlough, and pride of place is taken in the Library by the missionary collection. In many ways, it is impossible to speak of the missionary collection as a separate part of the Library. Studies of economic history and educational policy of non-Christian countries are needed by the student of missions, and so are the works of many sociologists, psychologists and theologians. The aim of the Missionary collection is

practical rather than purely historical. The historical side is not neglected, and the Library has a number of rare and interesting early books, but the stress is placed on meeting the needs of the missionary student. This is in itself a high aim and difficult to realise. The geographical field is enormous, and the demand is usually for specific rather than general studies. Consequently, though no part of the world in which missionary work is being carried out is neglected, special attention is paid to those areas in which British missionaries usually work and with which these colleges are most closely connected. It will therefore be found that the collection is strongest on Africa, India and the West Indies. Within these areas the aim has been to provide all those books which a student of the contemporary situation may find of value, and to build up the historical background with this practical interest chiefly in mind. Books on missionary history and theory, and biographies of missionaries are, of course, included, but the Library also provides works of general history and anthropology, and studies of the social, economic, and cultural background. Many periodicals of value to the missionary are received annually. Complete files include the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, dating from 1834, Africa, The International Review of Missions, Anthropos, and the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute. There are good sets of local and United Kingdom government publications and of journals published in colonial countries.

Among manuscript material may be mentioned the Rendel Harris Collection of papyri, consisting of some 200 fragments collected by Dr. Harris in Egypt in 1932-3. Most of these have been transcribed by J. Enoch Powell and published in his: The Rendel Harris papyri, C.U.P., 1936. A small collection of western mss. contains six of the Greek New Testament. The Mingana Collection of mss., named after Dr. Alphonse Mingana, founder and first curator of the collection, is housed and administered by the Library. It consists of about 660 Syriac manuscripts, 270 Christian Arabic, 1,800 Islamic Arabic and a few Persian, Georgian and other oriental manuscripts. A numer of these are of great value. Most of them were collected by Dr. Mingana during three expeditions made for this purpose to the Near East in the years 1924-9. During the last years of his life, Dr. Mingana was engaged in editing and translating some of the most important manuscripts for publication in two series: Woodbrooke Studies, of which seven volumes were published, (1927-34); and Woodbrooke Scientific Publications, of which only one volume appeared (1935). He also prepared the first three volumes of the Catalogue of the Mingana Collection, (Syriac and Christian Arabic mss., 1933-9); the fourth volume, (Islamic Arabic mss.), of which two parts have appeared, (1948-50) is now being completed.

The oldest Syriac manuscripts are fragments belonging to a

group which came originally from Mt. Sinai and are outstanding partly because of their age. One of these, judged to be of the fifth century A.D., is a palimpsest which proved to belong to the famous Syro-Palestinian codex of the New Testament, the Codex Climacus. Other important manuscripts published by Dr. Mingana contain such pieces as a new life of John the Baptist, the martyrdom of Pilate and some of the hitherto lost writings of Theodore of Mopsuestia. Among the Christian Arabic manuscripts is found a fragment of the oldest known text of the Acta Thomae, which is probably one of the earliest translations from Greek into Arabic existing in manuscript form.

On the death of Dr. Mingana, his books were presented to the Library. The collection thus formed has increased by regular purchases and also by the purchase of part of the library of Professor Eugen Mittwoch of Berlin. There is now a good body of Arabic and Syriac texts, works of reference and linguistic tools, and books dealing with Islamic religion and the history and culture of the Islamic world.

From the beginning, the Library has taken full part in the development of loans between libraries. It is an active member of the local Regional Library Bureau and an outlier library of the National Central Library. While it does not lend to private borrowers, any bona fide student is welcomed as a reader. Manuscripts may not be borrowed, but microfilms are supplied.

(Mrs.) J.T. Leonard

Periodical articles

The journal France-Asie (93, rue Nguyên-van-Thinh, Saigon, Viêt-Nam), has issued nos. 153-157 (Feb.-Jun.1959) in one volume under the title "Présence du Bouddhisme". This volume runs to 1024 pages and covers Buddhism from every angle and in every part of the world. The text itself ends on p.958, and is followed by a glossary of 18 pp. and a bibliography of 44 pp.

Grison (P.) Le Bouddhisme d'Inde en Chine. France-Asie, vol. XVI, 1959, pp. 1093-1103.

Howes (J.F.) The non-church Christian movement in Japan. Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, 3rd Ser., vol. 5, Dec. 1957.

Wrigley (C.C.) The Christian revolution in Buganda Comparative studies in society and history, vol. 2, 1959/60, pp. 33-48.